(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) CGHS keeps stock of formulary medicines in its first aid post in Parliament House Annexe. In respect of Medicines prescribed outside of the formulary and where some medicines in the first aid post have run out of stock, the Chief Medical Officer-in-charge is authorises to place indents for the same on the authorised local chemist is expected to supply the indented medicines on the next working day.

Deployment of licentiates in rural areas

2863. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sir Joseph Bhore Committee in 1946 had recommended full health coverage for the entire population through basic doctors graduating after a five and a half years course in medical colleges;

(b) whether the dissenting members of the Bhore Committee argued that in view of shortage of doctors, licentiates undergoing a shorter medical training should be deployed in rural areas;

(c) whether a task force on medical education as recommended by the National Health Policy 2002 tried to revive the cadre of licentiates;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) whether India should consider developing mid-level medical practitioners?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) to (e) In order to overcome shortage of doctors in the rural areas as recommended by various committees in the past, the Central Government has amended Medical Council of India Regulations to Provide:

(i) 50% reservation in Post Graduate Diploma Courses for Medical Officers in the Government service who have served for at least three years in remote and difficult areas; and

(ii) Incentive at the rate of 10% of the marks obtained for each year in service in remote or difficult areas upto the maximum of 30% of the marks obtained in the entrance test for admissions in Post Graduate Medical Courses.

These steps will encourage doctors to work in rural areas. The MCI Regulations are reviewed and amended from time to time to meet the needs of the country.

WHO's assistance for H1N1 vaccine development

2864. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Health Organization (WHO) has recently warned India that H1N1 virus can be dangerous in its second phase which is approaching very soon;

(b) if so, whether WHO has provided assistance to some institutes to develop and manufacture the vaccine to fight H1N1 virus;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the strategies formulated by Government to face the challenges of H1N1 virus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) World Health Organization has advised preparedness for a winter surge in influenza cases.

(b) and (c) World Health Organisation has facilitated transfer of technology to six vaccine manufacturers in developing countries including one in India for manufacture of H5N1 (Avian Influenza) Vaccine. With the pandemic affecting worldwide, WHO has supported these identified vaccine manufacturers to shift to H1N1 vaccine. WHO has also provided candidate vaccine strains to three other indigenous manufacturers.

(d) Government of India adopted a containment/disease limiting strategy in the initial part of the H1N1 pandemic, when India was not affected. With community spread reporting in some States, Government of India shifted to a mitigation strategy that included creating awareness, providing access to those affected for clinical assessment, treatment and hospitalization, and limiting further spread by social distancing measures.

Swine flu

2865. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the total deaths so far due to swine flu in the country and whether Government has given permission to six companies to supply flu medicine;

(b) whether H1N1 deaths in India are more than twice that of the world rate; and

(c) whether Prime Minister has also urged his Ministry to take proper steps to check spurt in polio cases in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI): (a) So far there have been 670 deaths due to Pandemic Influenza A H1N1 (as-on 11.12.2009). The office of the Drug Controller General (India) has granted permission to six companies to market Oseltamivir.

(b) No.

(c) The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, while approving the 'Implementation of Polio Eradication Strategy for the year 2009-10 to 2011-12' has directed the Ministry that recurrence of polio cases in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar be investigated to ascertain the reasons